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MAR 16 2005

TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3600

In re application of
Alan Tien et al.
Application No. 10/772,530 : DECISION ON REQUEST
Filed: February 04, 2004 : FOR WITHDRAWAL OF
For: METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR ATTORNEY
INCENTIVIZING THE PROMOTION OF A
PAYMENT SERVICE

This is a decision on the request filed on November 22, 2004, under 37 CFR 1.36 and MPEP 402.06, requesting permission to withdraw as the attorney of record in the above-identified application.

The request is **NOT APPROVED**.

Under 37 CFR 1.36 an attorney may withdraw only upon application to and approval by the Commissioner. It should be noted that a withdrawal is effective when approved, not when filed. For approval of such a request the following conditions must be met:

- A) Each attorney of record must sign the notice of withdrawal, or the notice must contain a clear indication of one attorney signing on behalf of another, because the Office does not recognize law firms;
- B) There must be at least 30 days between approval of the withdrawal and the later of the expiration date of a time period for reply or the expiration date of the period which can be obtained by a petition and fee for extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136(a);
- C) A proper reason for the withdrawal as enumerated in 37 CFR 10.40(b) or subsection (1)-(6) of 37 CFR 10.40(c) must be provided;
- D) The applicant or patent owner must have been notified of the withdrawal as provided for in 37 CFR 1.36.

The request to withdraw as attorney is not accepted in the above-identified application because the request lacks condition B) above.

As to condition B), The statement included in the request, "Discontinuation of attorney client relationship," does not satisfy one of the valid reasons for withdrawal under 37 CFR 10.40 (b)(1)-(4) or (c)(1)-(6). The attorney may not discontinue the attorney client relationship on his own accord.



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